the same day. In addition to the above, the 24 hours emergency services of Psychiatric patients is available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Upgradation of facilities within available resources is a continuous process. Moreover, the Institute has its own house survey and inspection system to monitor the performance of various areas of the hospital and their efficiency.

Illegal private nursing homes

37. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-Item captioned, "Crackdown on illegal nursing homes", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 28th August, 2002 regarding the illegal private nursing homes mushrooming in the capital;

(b) if so, the number of nursing homes found short of the norms laid down; and

(c) the kind of remedial action taken against them and whether any fresh norms have been laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ban on gutkha products

38. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the^Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) the role his Ministry has played in retaining the ban on gutkha in the States with the ban on gutkha products being imposed in many States;

(b) the response of his Ministry to the fact that many gutkha associations in these States have got stay orders from their respective High Courts against the ban; and

(c) the strategy adopted by his Ministry to tackle the situation legally against gutkha associations that look for legal loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)The Food (Health) Authorities of States / UT Governments have independent powers under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to prohibit the manufacture for sale or store, sell or distribute any article of food for the time being in the interest of public health.

So far 3 States, namely Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have imposed ban on gutkha / pan masala or other alike products under the relevant provisions of the PFA act, 1954. As the issue concerns health of the people, the Gvoemment of India has not been opposed to such initiatives of the State Governments and has not considered appropriate to advise the State Gvoernment to review their decision regarding these ban orders. No stay orders have been granted by the High Courts in any of the States where the State Governments have imposed ban on gutkha / pan masala and other alike products. The Central Governemnt has been adopting a strategy of first moderating and discouraging the consumption of different kinds of tobacco products and is engaged in addressing this issue in a phased manner taking into consideration various related factors. Accordingly, in order to discourage the consumption / use of chewing tobacco / gutkha / pan masala and other tobacco products, the Central Government has taken the following steps in this direction so far:—

- Statuary warning has been made mandatory under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 on the labels of the packages containing chewing tobacco, pan masala and supari. Further, such warnings are also mandatory in the advertisements relating to pan masala and supari.
- The advertisements of all tobacco products including gutka have been banned on Doordarshan.
- Advertising of tobacco products on CableTelevision is also banned under the Cable TV Regulation Act.
- In view of the various recommendations and international experiences in this regard, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

has formulated a strategy for reducing the use of tobacco based on anti-tobacco legislation. A Bill, namely, The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 has been referred to the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 which was referred to the Standing Committee on the 12th March, 2001 .The Standig Committee has submitted its Report in December, 2001 and the same is under consideration of the Government. The Bill is pending in Parliament.

Bill on ISM&H

39. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring before Parliament a Bill on the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the proposed policy Would be integrated with the composite national health delivery apparatus;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Government has approved a separate National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. The policy, *inter-alia,* seeks integration of ISM&H in health care delivery system and National Programmes.

Medical Colleges

40. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges functioning at present in various parts of the country, name-wise/State-wise;